

AGENDA ITEM IV A

PROPOSED LETTER OF INTENT

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

Ph.D. IN INDUSTRIAL-ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

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STAFF COMMENT

In its Letter of Intent, the University notes that the projected program would complement existing programs and research in M.S. in Industrial-Organizational Psychology and Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology. Other areas such as Biomedical Engineering, Management/Marketing, Business Administration, and Entrepreneurship would also benefit from the proposed program's implementation.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Appropriateness with the Role, Scope and Mission

The proposed program is consistent with the role, scope and mission of the institution.

Potential for Unnecessary Program Duplication

There is currently no similar program offered by state institutions of higher education; therefore, unnecessary program duplication is not a relevant issue. It should be noted that LSU A&M offers a related Ph.D. program in Psychology, but this is a broad-based degree without a specific major in this area.

Consistency with Desegregation Agreement

The Desegregation Settlement Agreement does not provide for the development of a Ph.D. program in Industrial-Organizational Psychology at any predominantly black institution; therefore, mandates of the Settlement Agreement do not apply.

Prospects for Funding

The University admits that additional resources will be needed to implement the projected program: at least two new faculty, support for faculty development, ten assistantships, and augmented library/computer collections will be needed. Estimates of additional costs for the first four years were given in the proposal as follows:

Year 1	\$173,700
Year 2	\$255,900
Year 3	\$305,900
Year 4	\$305,900

The University believes that after five years of operation the program would become a significant magnet for external funding from national, regional, and state granting agencies.

Regarding specific Board of Regents funding criteria for new Letters of Intent, the University did not cite any of the specific rationale for exception as provided within the policy. It appears, however, that within the context of its presentation, the University claims the projected programs are “indispensable to fulfilling the role, scope, and mission of the university or college and is deemed indispensable to fulfilling critical educational needs of the State.”

STAFF SUMMARY

The staff concludes that the Letter of Intent for the projected Ph.D. in Industrial-Organizational Psychology at Louisiana Tech University clearly meets three of the four requirements of **Academic Affairs Policy 2.4 - Letter of Intent for Projected New Academic Programs**. The issue of funding is not resolved. The University claims that the projected program is essential to its role, scope, and mission and is required to meet critical educational needs of the State, and so merits additional State support. Evidence for this claim is lacking; the staff cannot therefore render judgement. To determine whether the University’s position is valid, the staff suggests that this question remain unanswered at this time, pending a review of the entire program proposal by a team of external consultants.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the proposed Letter of Intent for the projected Ph.D. program in Industrial-Organizational Psychology (CIP Code 42.0901) at Louisiana Tech University. In addition to fully addressing all other Regents’ requirements, the full proposal for this projected program shall specifically address unresolved issue of the pertinence of this program to the role, scope, and mission of Southeastern Louisiana University and critical educational needs of the State.